

University of Groningen

Central because Liminal

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Document Version

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Publication date:

2017

[Link to publication in University of Groningen/UMCG research database](#)

Citation for published version (APA):

IJssennagger, N. L. (2017). *Central because Liminal: Frisia in a Viking Age North Sea World*. [Thesis fully internal (DIV), University of Groningen]. Rijksuniversiteit Groningen.

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Central because Liminal

Frisia in a Viking Age North Sea World

1. Contemporaneity as the criterion for written sources in historical research is outdated.
2. 'Multi-ethnic' as used in Viking Age studies for various groups of people and, primarily, warbands is a deceiving term that should be replaced by 'multi-geographically and culturally provenanced'.
3. The accumulation of a large body of corroborative evidence can be equally fruitful in academic research as the finding of direct proof.
4. The terms Dano-Frisian and North Sea Viking need to be coined for those Viking-Age groups of people that were closely related to both Frisia and Denmark on the one hand, and those that were connected to both Frisian and Anglo-Scandinavian on the other.
5. To formulate academic research questions for the study of medieval societies from a national perspective is anachronistic; instead, we should focus on the local, regional and supra-regional levels and embed them in the international perspective.
6. Positive discrimination is discrimination too, and therefore always negative.
7. The problem for interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary research is that research is assessed on a disciplinary basis.
8. Celebrating diversity can create unity.
9. It is dangerous to equate gold with kings, as businessmen can be wealthier than kings.
10. "If we knew what it was we were doing, it would not be called research."
(Albert Einstein).
11. A PhD thesis is as good as the university library allows it to be.
12. The sooner this thesis is outdated, the better.